I have not chosen to allude in my volume to one of Harriet Martineau's American Experiences, which although it gave her great & various pain, in no way told upon her life or character.

But dining one day recently at Mr. James T. Fields's, in company with Mr Longfellow, I got an indication to preserve the facts, — Authenticated by her journals, her own statements to me, & to the Lollens.

He said to me, — (sitting next me at table) absolutely

and spoke to Nothing, as if anxious to suppress an Apothegm lest that might not afford occasion to shine a passing curiosity — "What was the occasion of Miss Martineau's circulating such a story about Mr. Garnett. Wasn't She crazy" — (I.) "She thought that He was so." "Mr. I must premise, was before Mr Garnett's death. I think in 1870. Just that I turned half round & looking in Mr Longfellow's eyes I said, "Is Mr Garnett a friend of yours?" — "Oh, no — no." quite apostolic, Mr Fields voice came in, across the

table, — "Mrs Chapman, — Some Lachryma Christi? —" & Mr. Longfellow said nothing parti-cular. Then & there, I inward-ly resolved that I would leave the facts on record.

To begin with the be-ginning — Mr. Sumner had always been a great admirer of Miss Martineaus Unitarian-religious writings; — had constituted himself the orator of the book of devotions which he mangled, — & of "the traditions of Palestine" which he mangled worse under the title of "the times &

the Saviour. Very naturally
when she came to America
he sought her out & invited to
his house in Hayward Place
Boston. She did make a
visit to Mrs. Jarnett in
consequence, & at them house
I saw her, & so did Garrison,
& there she held her Puritan
Court so to speak, & Mr Jar-
nett was civil to Garrison
notwithstanding the odium
that great man was then
laboring under, for righteous-
ness's sake.

She was obliged to
work late, — & so was Mr
Jarnett: & one evening
very late, when the rest of

MS. A. 2.6.4

of the household were asleep, he began to bemoan his many sufferings, & for a climax he demanded her sympathy in his ill-assorted marriage as he said, — & began to say all the things in admiration of herself as his true mate, which might properly enough have been said were he unmarried, & paying his court to her. Under the actual circumstances she was much shocked, & began to meditate escape, when his manners were such as to compel the conclusion that if not mad, he was mad: and under the full conviction that he must be the latter, his guest rushed to her own rooms & secured

herself for the night. The next morning she left the house, & went to Dr. Channing to tell him that his colleague needed his immediate care, to avert insanity; of which the treatment of herself by such a man was sufficient evidence.

Dr. Channing was amazed & incredulous. His colleague was incapable of meaning ill, — & the lady was under a delusion. But while the conversation was going on, a note was handed her from Mr Barnett expressing love, & grief, & repentance for the scene of the

last night. "There!" said
H. M. handing him the
note:— "you see your colleague
needs immediate care & med-
ical advice. You really
must attend to him. Dr
Channing made no re-
ply, but turned to the fire,
put the note into it.

She took her leave telling
Dr Channing she was on
her way to Watertown, to the
Follens. But, as they were not
expecting her, & noticed that
she was somewhat disconcerted,
she found (as in fact she always
did) that it was best to make
an unreserved statement of
the cause of her unreasonable

appearance. The Collins were incredulous at the first moment. Who would not have supposed some delusion? Such ascetic piety as Mr Garnett had always seemed to be, it was impossible not to try to find some way of escape from a conclusion unfavourable to him. "You must be under some mistake as to what he said! — Remember the liability you are to hearing what you have said to you." — (Harriet.) "I suppose there is no mistake when a man goes down on his knees to me?" This left the

MS.A.1.2.9.4

Lollens in his doubt, & they entreated her to remain with them till her next engagement became due.

Not very long after this, while she was living in London, Mr Sumner was obliged to travel, for his health. (See his son's biography of him) He was ordered by his Physicians to go without his wife. When he reached London, he wrote to Harriet & saw her, & she writes thus in her journal:

MS.A.9.2.6.4